



Volume 28 No.4

THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



November 2022 Issue

BBCC Reconnecting with the Community

BY ADA BROWN

Over the last few years, our focus at the Broad Brook Community Center has been planning, construction, and fundraising. Now that we have reopened, we are so excited to reconnect with our neighbors and meet new families who have joined our community.

This November, we kick off a series of events hosted by our community partners, as well as local individuals and organizations. The Grange will restart their seasonal traditions such as Community Thanksgiving, Stocking Stuffing Night, and their wonderful Sugar on Snow Supper. Guilford Center Stage will bring theater back to the building this spring, and next July, the Guilford Free Library will return with its annual summer camp.

In addition to returning favorites, we also welcome many new events, many of which we hope will become annual traditions. The Friends of Music at Guilford will hold their winter concert at the BBCC



Sara Coffey, Don McLean, Rick Zamore, Bobbie Haumann, Harry Evans and Nancy Evens cut the ribbon to open the Broad Brook Community Center.

in early December, and our new partner Neighborhood Roots will use the space for their food buying group, workshops, and community get-togethers like the February Soup for the Soul Potluck. The Recreation Commission will host fun

monthly events, and the Conservation Commission has laid out a wonderful series of educational programs.

November also ushers in the revival of our monthly community days. One day per month is reserved for free community use. The only rule is that whatever event you are planning must be free to all and open to everyone. Have an idea for a dance? Want to share your knowledge through a workshop? Connect with neighbors at a potluck? We would love to see it happen! Whatever your idea, send it our way, and we will see if we can make it a reality.

This community has supported our project wholeheartedly over the last nine years, and we are

thrilled to see how we can now support you in return.

We hope this building will be a hub for reconnection and a place where new friendships are formed and fond memories made.

See page 8 for more about the reopening

Guilford Food Hub at Broad Brook Community Center

BY JULIE BEET

Do you love local food? If so, get excited! Neighborhood Roots Food Collective's tiny pilot local food buying group has expanded to become the Guilford Food Hub. The Guilford Food Hub has set up shop at the newly renovated Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) to provide a convenient and affordable way to buy local.

The Guilford Food Hub distributes local produce and products directly from several Guilford farms and from Food Connects in Brattleboro. Fruit, veggies, cheese, yogurt,

meat, eggs, bread, coffee (locally roasted), maple syrup, fermented veggies, baked goods, cut flowers, prepared foods, and more are available.

Individual orders are placed online (biweekly) a few days ahead, then picked up at the BBCC on Wednesdays. It's a lot like an online farmers market!

The Guilford Food Hub endeavors to make local food affordable by accepting SNAP/EBT as well as participating in the Crop Cash program that doubles SNAP benefits

on all local produce. All the food is sold at cost with a sliding scale donation added to support the program.

Neighborhood Roots Food Collective is a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to support community members and local farmers in growing the food that we eat, while helping to ensure that all of our neighbors have access to healthy, locally-produced food." Neighborhood Roots is completely volunteer run and welcomes your participation!

Volunteers Raise a Taper-wall Yurt on East Mountain Road this Fall



Many hands make light work



The Guilford Gazette

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The *Guilford Gazette* was established in 1995 and was published by students at Guilford Central School, with support from the Town of Guilford, and is now published under the auspices of the Guilford Free Library.

Deadlines: We publish four issues per year: February, May, August and November. Deadlines are January 1 for February, April 1 for May, July 1 for August, and October 1 for November.

The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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The Guilford Gazette Needs You!

BY SUSAN BONTHRON

We are reaching out to all the Guilford citizens who read and enjoy the Gazette. Since we are a small, all-volunteer organization with printing and distribution costs, we rely on your advertising and donations to make sure we can pay our bills.

There are four ways you can support the Gazette: Place an ad; donate; send us an article or photos (600 words max, 500 if you include photos); or volunteer. From now on, the Gazette will include all the information you need to do any of these four things on page 2 of each issue. I am also including the information below to call your attention to it, and to the enclosed donation envelope in this current issue.

Placing Ads

To place an ad, please contact Wanda Atomanuk (head of our Advertising department):

Wanda Atomanuk, Guilford Gazette
665 Upper Dummerston Rd
Brattleboro, VT 05301

802-451-6823, jwatoma@comcast.net

Business card-sized ads (3 1/2" x 2") cost \$35 for a single issue, \$120 for 4 issues. A

1/4 page or double-sized business card ad is \$65 per issue. Feel free to contact Wanda by phone or email if you have questions or need her to send you a form.

Sending Donations

Since Wanda is also our Development director, you can send donations (made out to the Guilford Gazette) to her at the address above. We told you we're a small organization! Even easier, just enclose a check in the donation envelope included in this issue, put a stamp on it, and send it to Wanda. Thanks in advance!

Volunteering

If you are interested in becoming a staff member who can help with advertising, development, editing or production, we invite you to join us at our monthly meetings at 9AM on Zoom on the second Thursday of every month. Contact Cathi Wilken at 1-(802) 257-4603 or email her at the Gazette (gazettevt@gmail.com) for a zoom link.

Sending in Articles

To let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford, or to share a reminiscence, poem or story with

your fellow Guilfordites, submit articles of no more than 600 words (or 500 if you include photos) to gazettevt@gmail.com. You can send them in an email text or attach them in an editable word-processing format such as Google Docs or Word.

Deadlines: Please remember that our deadlines are:

January 1 (for the mid-February issue),

April 1 (for the mid-May issue),

July 1 (for the mid-August issue) and

October 1 (for the mid-November issue).

Photos should be sent as jpeg files of at least medium size, and should include a caption describing the photo and including a photo credit when appropriate. Note that it is the responsibility of the writer/photographer to get permission for printing.



Farewell, Guilford Town Office

BY PENNY MARINE

Wow. Where do I begin?

The beginning... July 2010 I was appointed to serve as the new Town Clerk, serving for 20 hours a week. Less than six weeks later I was on my own in the position. A couple of months later the Selectboard appointed me to serve as Treasurer, in addition to filling Town Clerk duties. I was scared and had to learn fast. But it seemed a good fit. I liked working in the community, and I was elected to the Town Clerk/Treasurer positions in March 2011.

Thirteen years later I have completed nearly five full terms in these elected posts. Over time I've met and come to know many residents and feel that in some ways I've acquired new friends, even if only through voting, paying taxes or getting a dog tag. Many a good conversation has been had across the counter!

It's now time for someone else to take the reins. I will not be running for another term in March 2023. Retirement



Guilford Town Office

beckons and I look forward to enjoying my Florida home more in the coming years.

Over a year ago I appointed Danielle Latulippe to serve as Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. Danielle grew up in Guilford and knows the Town and its people. Danielle has worked at my side learning on the job as well as undertaking and successfully completing various training courses from different agencies. She has the experience, interest, and passion to serve Guilford and I fully support her desire to run for this position.

I feel differently about the Town Treasurer role. In the 13 years since I took on this role, the underlying fundamentals and challenges of municipal finances have become increasingly complex. That trend will probably continue. Guilford needs a Treasurer with expertise in municipal accounting and finances. To that end, I feel that appointing a qualified Treasurer would be the best course of action for Guilford. Should the Selectboard agree that a move from elected to appointed Treasurer is advisable, I will enthusiastically support that question on the March 2023 Town Meeting ballot and would hope that the voters agree with me.

I will be more than happy to work with the Selectboard in the transition period.

With all that in mind I will have the next few months to share farewells with everyone and will surely be thinking of Guilford as I spend more time in Florida!

My Life in Art and Theater

BY MELODY SQUIRES

We all face challenges in our lives and often we can be helped and motivated by stories of others who have met their challenges with a great sense of determination. I would like to share my story of how I've faced my challenges to help me achieve a life with purpose and fulfillment.

I was born with two types of Cerebral Palsy that resulted in having to be in a wheelchair all the time. Cerebral Palsy is challenging! I get down about my disability because I can't do things like everyone else. Then with a surge of determination, I always snap out of it. I think of things that I CAN do.

Seven years ago, I moved from my mom's house out to Guilford with my friend/home provider, Sarah Green and her boyfriend, Travis Lane. I love being in Guilford as it is so peaceful and beautiful out here. I live across from the Guilford Fairgrounds, so every year when the Guilford Fair comes around, I sit on the porch and watch all the happenings over there. We can hear the great music they play and I just love it!!

Having Cerebral Palsy, I can't use my hands, so I use a headstick—like a helmet with a stick coming out to type on my iPad. When I attended an Adult Care called "The Gathering Place", I saw people creating art there. I asked one of the staff if he would help me figure out how to paint with my head. We came up with taping a paint brush to the rod of my headstick.

My friend introduced me to his friend, Ross Smart, who is an art teacher! Ross had no idea what to do with a disabled person, no less how to teach me how to paint with my head. When I first started with him, he had to put my headstick on himself to know how to help me. It was hard for him to use it, but gradually we developed a way for me to paint. After a while working with pen and ink, I graduated to oils, which I absolutely love! My first painting was very hard!

I love the artist Georgia O'Keefe and I particularly loved one of her paintings. With Ross's help, I painted my own copy. It took us six months, and we were both very frustrated at times, but it came out



Melody painting.



*Melody's painting,
entitled "Six Months"*

beautifully! Today, my art is in Harmony Collective in Brattleboro and I am amazed at how many people love it. I make cards from my paintings and people buy them almost every day!

The friend who introduced me to Ross told me about a class for disabled adults and multi-aged people. Called "Theatre Adventure", it was originally a part of the New England Youth Theater on Flat Street. Over two years ago we went on our own and became a nonprofit organization.

I wasn't interested in being in theater at all; I was very nervous about my speech as it's very limited. I didn't want to be in front of a big audience and having to say some-

thing on the stage. I first visited Theatre Adventure to see if I could help with the scenery painting. I met with the Executive Director and the Disability Specialist, Laura Lawson Tucker and Darlene Jenson, who were absolutely wonderful to me!! They were so supportive that the thought of painting scenery was quickly forgotten and acting in a play became foremost in my mind! I found that even though I have a disability and a bad speech problem, I can do things as well as other people do.

My first play was "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and I played Nick Bottom. Nick is a jokester and I just love to kid around. As my support person, Ross went to all rehearsals with me and I performed in three shows. I had an amazing time playing my roles. When Covid started and everyone had to be in quarantine, our teachers developed a show that was suitable for presentation on Zoom. We made puppets and everyone made their own skit. At home, Sarah became my support person.

For the Zoom show, we had to think of our ultimate dream and mine has always been to be able to walk! I dream about that every single day, so Sarah and I made a cool puppet named "Fiona". Fiona was in a wheelchair like myself and I wrote a story about being a Fashionista and at

Continued on next page



Melody

Restoration of Christ Church Guilford in Algiers

BY ANDY BURROWS

Work will soon begin on repairing Christ Church on Melendy Hill Road and the Coolidge Highway (Rte 5) to sustain it for another century. Built in 1817 and later given Gothic Revival styling, it was the first Episcopal Church building in Vermont. It is an architectural classic. On May 13, 1982, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The roof is leaking, damaging the unusual coved and vaulted ceiling, and it needs some structural repairs. Work is also planned on the beautiful Guilford slate roof and the ridge cap. The heating system needs to be upgraded as well. The Christ Church Society board hired Stevens and Associates of Brattleboro to do an engineering study for this restoration. That is now complete, and the work has been put out for bids locally. The most urgent repairs are being planned for this fall. Each of the engineers and contractors have commented on the unusual features of the 204 year old building, such



Christ Church is in need of roof repairs

as the remarkable ceiling and wood paneling.

Sadly, while the restoration is in progress, the usual activities at the church have had to be suspended, for safety's sake. Weddings and summer church services have gone elsewhere. Many of us in Guilford have missed the concerts that were stopped as the pandemic set in and now await the new roof and working heating system. Friends of Music at Guilford will return when the work is done. The Society board also plans to make the building and grounds available to the community for a variety of educational, cultural, religious, and social justice events and initiatives upon reopening in 2023.

The Christ Church Society board will, of course, need the generous support of the community. To learn about the history of our building, to follow the developing work, and to make a donation, visit the newly refurbished Christ Church Guilford website: <https://www.christchurch-guilford.society.org>. Checks may also be sent to:

CCGS, 16 Bradley Avenue
Brattleboro, Vt 05301.

My Life, continued

the end, Fiona got up from her chair and walked down the runway in front of millions of people. For me, it was a symbol: You can always dream of being able to walk, or to do things like everyone else.

When Theatre Adventure became a non-profit with a Board of Directors, I

was asked to be a board member! At first I was very nervous and scared, but I went for it and found out I love it! I cannot go out in the streets to do leg work, but I have done a lot on my iPad! I am partnered with a board member who is a wonderful person and during the first year, we put together a

proposal called "Sustaining Supporters" so people can donate to Theatre Adventure on a regular basis. Being a part of Theatre Adventure has been an amazing experience for me! My art and the theater have become awesome parts of my life!



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Guilford Summer Ramblings

BY ANNE MONTGOMERY

The back roads of Guilford hosted dozens of curious explorers this summer. They examined historic sites, identified plants and animals, and met new friends and old! These meanderings were part of Guilford Cares' free monthly walks, from May through October.

Each walk had a volunteer guide who was happy to share his or her knowledge with us. At least 67 people attended throughout the summer; rain occasionally threatened but obligingly held off until the end of our forays!

The traditional first walk of the season is the Weeks Forest Carriage Trail in Guilford Center. It is a beautiful forest road which follows the Broad Brook and once led to the Guilford Mineral Springs.

June was a cultural bonanza as we visited the Packer Corners neighborhood. Stories of Total Loss Farm, School House #10, and the stone sculpture garden amazed us.

Keets Brook Road was our chance to sneak into the northeast corner of Leyden, MA to see old mill sites, historic homes and ancient trees, all within half a mile of the state line. We had discovered the app "Seek" by iNaturalist and were able to identify many of the roadside wildflowers blooming in July.

Our walks in August and September provided interesting stories—one ancient and one modern. At the top of Carpenter Hill Road sits the 250 year old Carpenter House, surrounded by stone walls, ponds, woods trails, apple orchards and the Cemetery—oozing with early Vermont history! By contrast, the Green River Meadows,



Friends enjoying a Guilford Cares walk along the Green River Meadows Trail

south of the covered bridge, is a new trail which has recently been transformed from a vehicle junkyard into a hayfield, walking path and critical floodplain. Here we saw an ongoing experiment in elm tree regeneration, and an example of the pervasiveness of invasive species.

Many people have spent long hours helping to restore and maintain the fascinating environments we visited this summer. We hope you will join us in 2023 for more Guilford Cares Walks in our incredible town.

Special thanks to our volunteers and generous friends: Karen, Linda, Verandah, Gilbert, Myron, Amy, John, Art, and the Guilford Conservation Commission.



Examining a gravestone during the Carpenter Hill walk



Spotlight on The Good Spot

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE

I grew up in the Hilltowns, but after living out West for two decades, returning to this area was like rediscovering a place I had never truly appreciated as a child. We landed in Guilford, and like so many new to the Brattleboro area, I was instantly enthralled with the Farmers' Market and its abundance of seasonal goodness. For five years, my family has spent most Saturdays there, which is where I initially discovered Good Body Products, makers of small-batch, plant-based therapeutic body care products.

My favorites are the salves and body butters, made with groovy natural ingredients such as calendula, CBD, comfrey, and lemon balm—all traditional healing herbs that grow nicely in Southern Vermont. During my daughters' earlier years, when dousing them in DEET struck me as a dubious daily practice, I particularly loved the NO BUZZ NO BITES insect repellent salve, which naturally repels bugs with a mixture of essential oils in an olive oil and shea butter base. I also love her Solid Scents. I keep them on my desk and in my car whenever I need an olfactory pick-me-up or calm-me-down.

The "her" is Trish Naudon Thomas. I have had many pleasant conversations with Trish at the farmers market, but it wasn't until the pandemic years that I realized Trish was a Guilfordite like me. During the first year of the pandemic, I purchased her goods via her website and then drove over to her erstwhile farmstand in Green River to pick them up. Trish and her husband, Christopher Thomas, had built out a spot at the end of their drive for such deliveries.

This year, I was excited to hear that the couple had taken it up a notch



Trish Naudon Thomas at The Good Spot

with the brick-and-mortar idea and opened The Good Spot in the newly

renovated Vermont Marketplace off Exit 1. I had a chance to stop by and scope it out this fall and was inspired. Besides the whole array of Good Body Products, The Good Spot carries a lot of other great goodies (Tavernier chocolate! Smudging sticks! Bespoke teas!!) along with a heavenly smelling herbal apothecary and an inviting mocktail bar. Not a typo; the bar only serves mock-alcohol drinks, making it an inviting destination for those who don't drink but can really groove on a delicious sparkly fancy beverage! I recommend the Crisp & Crude Gold Fashioned.

The Good Spot also has bodywork treatment rooms in back, and hosts frequent musical events on its sweet little stage. Trish and Christopher, in fact, are musicians themselves, and this place represents something of a coalescing of all their interests—and mine. I can't wait for more good times at The Good Spot.

Guilford Community Church Holiday Bazaar

The annual Holiday Bazaar at Guilford Community Church will once again be an in-person event, on Saturday, December 3, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year's Bazaar will include an array of beautiful and varied handmade crafts, decorated wreaths, as well as our famous cookie platters and many other enticing baked goods and sweets. The popular raffle table returns as well, featuring a gorgeous quilt made by Judy Siler and a number of other terrific raffle items.

Guilford Community Church is located at 38 Church

Drive, off Route 5 in Algiers Village. All are welcome—we hope to see you there!



Cookie Platters at the Community Church Bazaar.

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BROAD BROOK CHRONICLE

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

Composed on the opening of the Broad Brook Community Center , October 22, 2022

Those who reap the most abundant harvest are those who contribute most liberally of their own time and talent. From the Preface to the Official History, penned by Guilford's Broad Brook Grangers: 1961.

1. 1896—from Vermont Phoenix:

The people of Guilford are to be congratulated on having such a live, energetic order as the Broad Brook Grange, for through their efforts a handsome and substantial building has been erected as a monument to their fidelity and perseverance. One is impressed with the solid appearance and convenient arrangement. Numbered hooks will accommodate 150 articles of clothing. A kitchen is equipped with all the modern conveniences for a crowd. All the rooms are finished in hard pine.

Upstairs is a seating capacity of over 300; a stage with a good assortment of scenery, all that amateur plays will call for. It has a handsome drop curtain with a scene from Ben Hur, "the chariot race." Everything about the building is first class and one good granger said, "It is too good for us," but we don't agree with him. The opening drama, "Bound by oath," was followed by a dance and chicken pie supper. The building was packed to suffocation....

2. Squares and Reels

With foolery and fortitude
In winters past, our neighbors wooed.

They scoffed at blizzards, slung on chains
To swerve and mingle at the Grange,
Fiddle, flounce, then strike a match,
Converse, rehearse, propose, attach.
"We made a go of it, I guess,"
That sweet momentum after "Yes."
Years do-si-do then promenade,
The caller halts, the piper's paid.

Ah, foolery and fortitude—
What precious wisdom we've accrued.

*

Tend what's old, and make it sound—
Raise the Grange Hall. Set it down
Stronger ever than before.
Let spirits dance across the floor—

Ken and Pat who drilled our wells,
Mimi who picked chanterelles,
Margery, back with Emery,
Promenade through memory—
Lucy and Abijah Prince,
Driven out and honored since.
For eloquence and bravery
We mark their place in history.

3. October: the Ah!! before the B-r-r-r.

Sun, bless us as we gather—
Weary of wariness, sick of malaise,
Giddy with gratitude, primed for praise.

There's majesty on every ridge.
(Who spoke of drought-dull foliage?)

As Autumn doffs her golden gloves,
Let's say Nature's labors of love
Are matched by Neighbors' hearts and hands,
With skills and wiles such work demands—
Rend, transcend, amend, and spend
To resurrect our treasured friend.

O, Broad Brook Center, splendid Grange,
What secrets lodge within your change?

Who dug the ancient stone-lined well
Below the crawl space? None can tell.
How did your rituals unfold,
To lighten the load of winter's cold?

Who recalls that New Year's Eve?
250 revels caused the heave—
A sinking feeling and a crack!
Eleven years propped on a jack.

Where is the lift? We must be shown
To elevate our ancient bones.
What new farmers will fill your larder,
Move the produce, sell or barter?
How did you shift from bricks and mortar,
From "shiver my timbers" to "apple pie order?"

Who will script your future scheme?
We'll stitch together common dreams,
And reawaken, cellar to rafter,
Guilford's happily ever after.

Land Acknowledgment

BY MARY ELLEN FRANKLIN

In preparing to put this land acknowledgement together, I learned that reverence for, and acknowledgement of the land is a tradition that goes back thousands of years.

Today we stand here together on land that has been evolving since the earth first formed 4.5 billion years ago. It has taken all that time to become what it is today. It is a land of deciduous and coniferous forests, open fields and their edges, rivers, brooks, and streams that run clean, as well as marshes, swamps, bogs, ponds, and lakes. Wildlife abounds in these diverse habitats. And we are the lucky inhabitants whose lives are enriched by the sensual enjoyment that comes from them. Sights, sounds, and smells greet us differently depending on the season. Here we can appreciate four distinct seasons and the amazing changes and challenges that come with them. This fall has been a craze of color, evidence of abundant sunshine this past summer and enough rain that arrived in just the nick of time. Now the vibrant canopy that amazed us the past several weeks is a colorful carpet we drag our feet through when we cross our yards or walk along trails in the woods.

We are moving into a time of year when you can easily see the stone walls and cellar holes that some of your ancestors built. Look even closer and you can find pre-contact cairns like the one on the hill behind my house. That cairn amazes me every time I pass by it. I try to imagine what life was like hundreds or even thousands of years ago here in Guilford. The Abenaki tribe called the Sokoke had six villages between the towns of Springfield, Vermont and Bernardston, Massachusetts. They were right here and descendants of them still are. Indigenous peoples knew that everything came from the land and referred to her as their mother.

Today let us acknowledge this land and all it gives to us. And like the multitudes of people that came before us, let us cherish and care for this place we call home, our mother, so generations that follow us can do the same.

This Year at Guilford Central School

BY JOHN GAGNON

The students and staff of Guilford Central School are off to a great start for the 2022-23 school year. Beginning on August 30th, kids and adults have packed a lot of learning and growing into our first few months. With the COVID restrictions of the past two years lifted, the routines

and rituals of school are refreshingly close to normal. Classes are resuming field trips, parent volunteers are back in the building, and we held our first music concert on Thursday, September 29, with cellists Zon Eastes and Miranda Bohl entertaining and educating students about the joy of making music. On

Wednesday, October 19th, the school hosted a short music concert at 5:30 PM followed by an open house and ice cream social, welcoming all Guilford Central School families to attend.

As the school opened, several new staff joined the school community.

Included in the roster of new educators are the following:

Ashley Moorhouse joins the school as the new Grade 1 teacher.

Sarah Rosow is the long-term substitute teacher in Grade 2.

Ruth Venman-Clay is the new Grade 3 teacher.

Hannah Wilson is the new Grade 5 teacher.

Nina Nabizadeh is the new Art teacher.

Molly Sauvain is the Academic Support teacher.

Melissa White is the new School Nurse.

Leanne Souksanh is the new Social Worker.

Jenn VonFeldt is the new paraeducator in Grade One.

Beth Dunklee is the new early grades Special Ed. paraeducator.

We welcome returning teachers and staff:

Chantelle Albin, Counselor

Kristine Arnold, PreK Paraeducator

Adam Baker, Facility Manager

Renee Baker, Admin. Assistant

Miranda Bohl, Behaviorialist

Amy Buchalter, Grade 6

Scott Castle, PreK Paraeducator

Steven Clark, Evening Custodian

Sandra Cortes, Academic Support

Sandra Cutting, K Paraeducator

Steve Damon, Music

Kristin Deslauriers, Grade 2

Karen Duggan, Academic Support Teacher

Emma Hallowell, PreK

Maggie Hansen, Kindergarten

Isabel Higgins-Long, Special Educator

Crystal Jillson, Special Ed Paraeducator

Hillary Katz, Academic Support

Sarah Landers, Grade 4

Adrienne LaPierre, Technologist

Hannah Salisbury, Special Educator

Angela Saviano, Librarian

Jen Sawyer, Speech

Karyn Tyler, Instr. Coach

Carol Anne Urban, Paraeducator

Johanna Wells, Phys Ed.

Amy Wood, Farm to School

Beverly Wright, Special Ed. Paraeducator

Along with many new faces, the school is filled with a strong sense of community, with positive regard for each other and learning. Each day, children and teachers bring their best selves to school.



GCS music students serenade families and students at the first school-wide open house in a few years

Working Together: GCC and GHS Collaborate at Carpenter House

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Last May, the owners of the Carpenter House, Art McEvily and Davida Bagatelle, reached out to members of the Guilford Conservation Commission (GCC) and the Guilford Historical Society (GHS) to ask if we knew that this year was the 250th anniversary of the house and if we would like to plan some kind of celebration.

Both groups were enthusiastic about the idea, knowing our missions overlap when it comes to Guilford's history. We began by reaching out to Gail Lynde, who published some of her research on the Carpenter House in a 2021 edition of the Gazette. Gail, who now lives in Maine, grew up in West Guilford and has a special interest in Guilford history. She agreed to join us at our first planning meeting in May, hosted by Art and Davida at the Carpenter House.

Sitting around a table on the quiet lawn behind the house, we envisioned the day and its events—small group tours of the house, a booklet describing its architecture and ownership, a history talk, guided walks around the Carpenter Hill Cemetery, and an invitation to walk the trails on the property. We looked through old photos and documents left at the house by previous owners and from the GHS museum files. We chose a date and divided up tasks for the summer ahead.

Art and Davida encouraged us to highlight the GHS and its efforts to raise funds for critical ceiling repairs at the Meetinghouse in Guilford Center. We decided that a raffle would be a fun way for folks to participate. Art and Davida offered the

top prize for the raffle—a dinner for six that they would host and prepare at the Carpenter House. GHS members agreed to gather additional raffle items.

Lots of quiet work went on over the summer. Gail worked on the research for her presentation. Diane Frost visited the town office to research the deed history. We set up a Google Drive folder to share resources we were all gathering from old newspapers, internet searches, and former owners. Some of us walked and mapped the trails with Art. Karen Murphy and Erin Tkaczyk met several times at the cemetery to plan their guided tours. They also reached out to the Guilford

Cemetery Commission for help with a broken marker.

We continued to meet monthly at the museum to work through the schedule, announcements, and other details of the day. We are most grateful to Mike Tkaczyk who arranged and set up the porta potty and parking. Our last meeting took place at the Carpenter House a few days before the event. We all read through documents about the house beforehand. On this day, we moved through the house room by room, sharing stories and talking about each room's special features. Those who had agreed to be docents took notes. Others reviewed their responsibilities for the welcome and raffle tables, the parking area, the cemetery, the trail walks, and the history talk.

Though rain postponed our Saturday plan, all turned out well. Sunday was a cool day, but our hearts were warmed as visitors started arriving right at 10am and continued coming in small groups throughout the day. More than 200 people had a chance to tour the house. Many toured the cemetery and stayed for Gail's talk.

As Gail said to Art and Davida at the opening of her talk, "We are so grateful that you have shared your home and allowed us to feel the history of this place for ourselves. It is such a gift to the community and to those folks here who are descendants of the Carpenters." We also thank them for bringing our two organizations together.



*Art McEvily and Davida Bagatelle
(Photo courtesy of Rachel Boettcher @
LifeSketch Photography)*



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Gail Lynde tells visitors about the history of Carpenter House.

(Photo courtesy of Rachel Boettcher @ LifeSketch)



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*At One
In a Place Called Guilford*

By the 6th grade class of
Guilford Central School

At One in a Place Called Guilford


Several visitors asked about a book we displayed at the Carpenter House celebration. Created by the 2015-2016 6th Grade Class at Guilford Central School, *At One in A Place Called Guilford* is a picture book filled with watercolor collages and poetic descriptions of special places in Guilford. We displayed the pages of the Carpenter Hill Cemetery and the Carpenter House.

The class self-published this book through Blurb. You can page through the entire book on Blurb's website at: www.blurb.com/books/6678475-at-one-in-a-place-called-guilford. You can also order a hardcover copy of the book from Blurb for \$37.23 (www.blurb.com/b/6678475-at-one-in-a-place-called-guilford). Or, you can visit the Guilford Free Library and enjoy reading through their copy.



I live in a place where I meander gracefully, so gracefully, through the cemetery among the many graves I see on Carpenter Hill.

I am at one with the old smell of the wet gravestones and the wet dewy grass.



I live in a place where I stare calmly, so calmly, at Benjamin Carpenter's old house.

I am at one with the wild crazy sounds from the animals around the handsome yard.

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Guilford Free Library Fall '22 Update

BY THE GUILFORD FREE LIBRARY TRUSTEES

The Guilford Free Library has been humming with activity. The arrival of the Autumn season inspired the Library Trustees and Friends to clean the library thoroughly while also clearing out some unwanted things that have gathered dust in the basement. Library volunteers and patrons share a love of the library and an appreciation for the great resource it is to our community. The beautiful antique front door with exquisite stained glass panels now shines as a welcoming entrance to our very busy town library.

After a summer of active camps, and in the lull before the winter sports equipment loan program arrives, we have also curated our collections of books. We recognize that this is a time to pause and consider not only our book collections, but also the goals and activities for the future of the library. We look back at our many achievements of the past year with pride. We recognize that libraries are constantly evolving to enhance their mission to best serve their community. As we think forward we aspire to continually evaluate current programs as well as innovate new ones in response to the ever-changing needs of Guilford's residents.

During the winter season the Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library will be taking stock and

deliberating thoughtfully about future directions for the Library, including consideration of its physical space constraints and how that might be addressed.

Please come visit your library to become familiar with our many resources that are available to all Guilford citizens: borrowing books from our own collection or through the state's interlibrary loan program; utilizing the use of our computers; accessing the internet; attending one of our programs; receiving assistance with

researching genealogy or other areas of interest; meeting up with other families of young ones for weekly Storytime sessions; and, gathering with other avid readers during book discussions.

The Guilford Free Library is a welcoming and vibrant place. We look forward to seeing you! Please contact the librarian, Cathi Wilken with questions or for information: 802-257-4603, or find us online: <https://www.guilfordfreelibraryvt.org>



Thanks, Guilford Free Library, for a great summer of camps, hot dog roasts, and memories with friends that will last a lifetime!

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DVFiber's New Executive Director: An Interview with Gabrielle Ciufredda

BY SUSAN BONTHRON

Ms. Gabrielle Ciufredda, known to most of us as “Gabby”, has lived in Guilford with her husband Andy Cotton for almost ten years. In that time, she has shown her commitment to community and civic engagement as a member of the Vermont State Downtown Development Board, the Broad Brook Community Center board, the Guilford Select Board (for four years), and most recently, the Windham Regional Commission, where she currently serves as Board Chair.

On September 1, Gabby became DVFiber's first Executive Director, and its only full-time employee. DVFiber's all-volunteer governing board realized that it was time to hire someone who could take on the day-to-day operations of their municipal organization; she is directly responsible to the board.

In addition to her years of volunteer experience on local boards, to quote from DVFiber's press release, Gabby “brings nearly 20 years of legal, asset management, and real estate development experience to the executive director position... [She] brings important skills in project financing, including tax credits... loan sourcing, and grant procurement/management.” Currently funded by a 21 million dollar state grant from Vermont's ARPA funding, DVFiber will make use of all her skills as it builds out universal connectivity through fiber optic cable to its 24-town consortium.

When I asked how she felt about working for the board, she told me how impressed she was with their strength, passion, and



Gabby Ciufredda

dedication to the project, and by the diversity of skills the group brings to the table.

“I look forward to working with our local communities and the DVFiber governing board to continue the organization's work of bringing reliable, affordable broadband to all areas of the service region. This infrastructure is critical to the ongoing success of businesses, communities, and individuals in our area” states Gabby in the press release. The pandemic made the need for that infrastructure crystal clear.

“I am excited about working with Gabby in her new role as DVFiber's executive director,” says DVFiber Board Chair Steven John. “She has the professional education, experience, and local insight to take our municipal corporation from pre-construction to the completion of our universal fiber service plan. Gabby knows how to work with a volunteer board to lead our organization with a singular purpose—to bridge the digital divide.”

Of course the question on the minds of all those in Guilford who are waiting for

a more reliable internet connection is “When?” While Gabby couldn't make any immediate promises, she did say that she and the board were working on a timeline for the buildout and hoped to have more specific information by the end of this year.

It's useful to know that any additional money Guilford chooses to spend from its own ARPA funding on the DVFiber buildout will be doubled by the State of Vermont. Now that Zon Eastes has stepped down as Guilford's representative to the DVFiber Board (thank you, Zon, for your years of dedication in that role!), Jason Black will be taking his place. With Gabby as Executive Director, Guilford can look forward to more progress soon to come.

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Something Stank

BY CATHI WILKEN

My car sure did stink when I called to make an appointment in mid-July to have it cleaned by Brattleboro Autobody and Detailing. Amanda Smith, one of the owners, said the first opening for a detailing was late in August, but they would try to fit it in sooner if I could leave it overnight. Desperately, I said OK.

I brought it in that day. Amanda and I went out to smell the car together. Amanda called Don—the other owner—over, and he started searching little nooks that he knew about, where critters liked to hide. Nothing yet. But they agreed to make it a priority. It really did smell awful!

The next day I got a call. They had found something—huge. It looked like a rat or something larger between the outer body and the lining. It was quite dead, with its head stuck in a very small hole. It took three days and nights to clean out the car and make it livable again. I can't believe how quickly and totally they responded to my dilemma. Amanda said she had to help me.

"What would you have done with that

car?" she said afterwards.

I sat down with Amanda and asked her how she got started in the autobody business.

"When I was 17, I got a '65 Mustang, and my dad and I decided to restore it. We learned together how to do it. It's something I always wanted to do." Later she worked with Lee Brunswick at Norm's Auto Body. Seven years ago, she and her husband, Don McAllister, leased the empty Town Crier building, wondering how they were ever going to fill the space. Now they realize they need more space as they expand from exclusively collision repair and detailing to oil undercoating and used cars sales. The majority of their work, though, is still collision repair.

One aspect of this business Amanda loves is helping people. When people come in, they really need help, she says, noting that it is often not easy to deal with the difficult insurance process.

"I hopefully can put people at ease," she says.

She sure put me at ease. I took my car home—odor-free and looking like new!



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Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News

BY WANDA ATOMANUK AND NANCY DETRA



Fundraiser a success!

Fire Department Statistics

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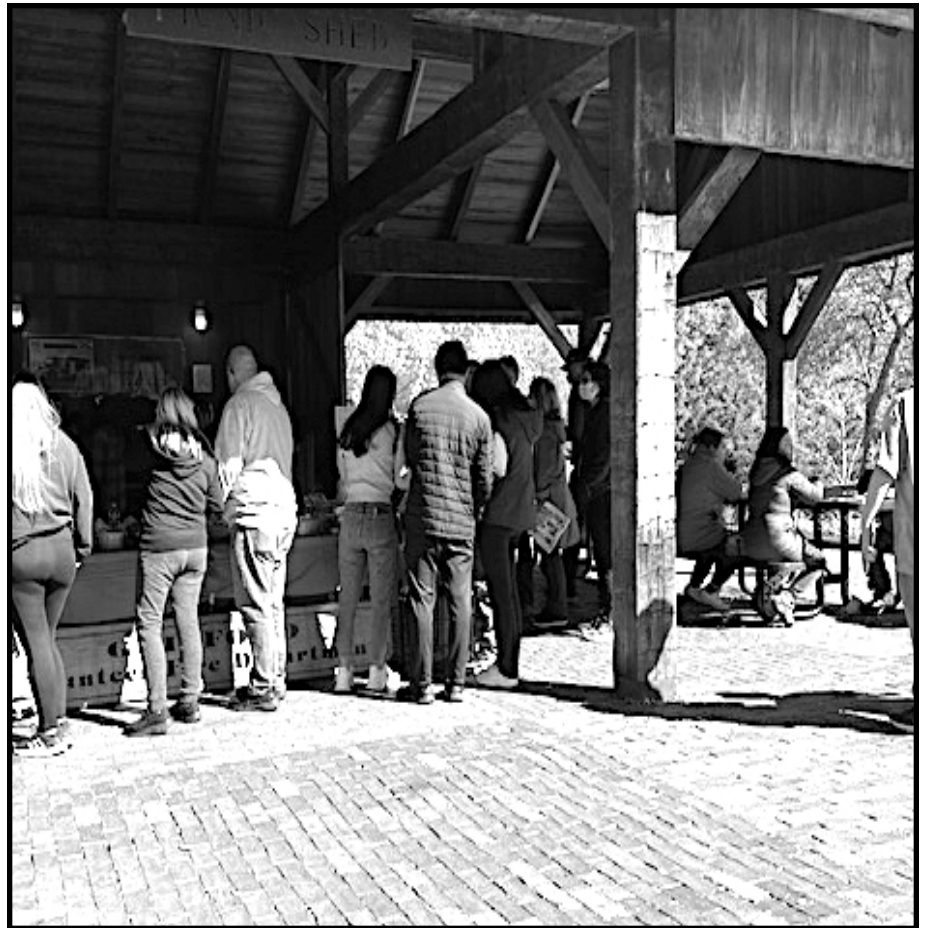
7 fire
12 medical calls
4 mutual aid

August:

9 fire
19 medical calls
3 mutual aid

September:

4 fire
9 medical calls
4 mutual aid



Tourists enjoyed a variety of home-baked snacks, coffee, and hot cider at the Welcome Center on the peak foliage weekend.

When the Fire Department is called to respond to a long event, the Auxiliary also responds—providing food either at the station or on site for the firefighters. The Welcome Center fundraiser is critical in fulfilling the Auxiliary's responsibilities.

The Fire Department Auxiliary would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who contributed snacks and time to make its I-91 Welcome Center fundraiser a success.

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No Carol Sing in Green River Village This Year

BY NANCY DETRA

The church in Green River will be empty again this Christmas season, due to the ongoing pandemic. Board members of the Green River Village Preservation Trust have decided that community carol singing in the confines of the small church is just too risky. But it was a hard decision to call off the service for the third consecutive year, when the need for repair and maintenance of the historic church, as well as of the nearby dam, the popular swimming hole, and the fire pond above the

dam, are ongoing. Donations made at the Carol Sing have provided the funds for this work.

Regular services at the church ceased in the 1930s, but Green River residents have worked together to maintain the building since then. In 1962, when the ceiling began to sag and the exterior clapboards were wanting fresh paint, villagers hosted the first Carol Sing. In addition, a group of village women opened an antique and tea shop, with proceeds also going toward upkeep of the church. The shop project

was reported in a Brattleboro Reformer article—reprinted below.

The Trust welcomes donations toward the care of the village center (Don't we all love the much-photographed bridge and waterfall and, of course, the popular swimming hole!).

Checks can be made out to GRVPT and mailed to Lynn Pancake, GRVPT Treasurer, 1082 Green River Road, Guilford, VT 05301.

Donations can also be made online at greenrivervillage.org.

Sale of Antiques Aiding Old Green River Church

GREEN RIVER—A 15-year summer resident of Green River who this summer opened an antique shop-tea room is selling antiques, towels and postcards to help a fix-up committee finish repairs of the old Green River Church.

Mrs. Walter M. Hinkle of South Salem, N.Y. handles sale of the articles donated by five women with an eye toward repairing the ceiling of the historic church and covering its exterior with a second coat of white paint.

"The Shop Near the Covered Bridge" is selling sap buckets, a yarn winder, dishware, majolica pitchers, old miniature lanterns, Mulberry antique plates, dish towels with pictures of the



community's historic covered bridge and postcards showing the same scene – and the church.

Several pattern glass vases and ash trays that used to be butter dips have also provided funds for the famous church, across the road and up a slight knoll from Mrs. Hinkle's village shop.

All of the articles being sold to benefit the church restoration program—now nearing completion—were contributed by Miss Dorothy Knight, Mrs. Otis Silbey, Mrs. Clyde Hadley, Mrs. Richard Symonds and Mrs. Hinkle.

"The Shop Near the Covered Bridge,"

the village's only commercial enterprise, may reach its goal and it may not.

The goal: sell all the benefit articles before autumn's cold settles over the little river village.

But, Mrs. Hinkle is on a race with the crisp weather season, she explains as she tosses more wood in the fireplace—only source of heat in the small house she and her husband have restored.

She hopes to close her shop for the season and return to her New York home about Oct. 15.

"I may sell them first," Mrs. Hinkle says —"or I may get too cold first."

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Remembering this year's Guilford Fair



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Eliza McIntyre, age 7



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Earl Clem of Hinsdale enjoys the fair with his rabbit, Gloria



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Community Calendar

Saturday, November 19 at 5 pm **Community Thanksgiving Potluck** at BBCC Put on by Broad Brook Grange. We provide turkey & stuffing. You bring side dishes & desserts.

Saturday, December 3, 9 am-1:00 pm **Guilford Community Church Holiday Bazaar**, 38 Church Drive, Guilford

Friday, Dec 9 at 7 pm & Saturday, Dec 10 at 7 pm **Holiday Concert** at BBCC. Friends of Music at Guilford.

ONGOING:

Every Tuesday

- 2 PM IN-PERSON or ZOOM STORYTIME Library—Cathi Wilken & Laura Lawson Tucker present a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 257-4603 Email staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org to request the zoom link.

Every second Tuesday of the month

- 9 AM GAZETTE MEETING Via Zoom or at the Guilford Help plan the next issue.

3rd Wednesday of the month.

- 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT BOOKS Library. Books are available to borrow from the library. (free).

Every Thursday

- 3-4 PM GUILFORD CARES FOOD PANTRY at Guilford Fairgrounds. Info: call Pat Haine 257-062

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*Zebulon Doku's first year entering his bunnies
in the small livestock barn!*

